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## Realizing Societal Ambitions

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Large-scale, innovative research programs on emerging science and technology are becoming common phenomena in the modern research landscapes of many western countries. These programs often consist of public and private partners, and have an academic mission and a societal ambition. The knowledge that is produced in these programs is expected to be excellent and relevant.

Although the expectations are high, currently little knowledge is available of the longitudinal dynamics of these programs. How successful are they in involving knowledge producers, potential future users and the public in the R&D process, and how can this be optimized? What factors support and hinder the realization of a program's societal potential?

This thesis presents the outcomes of a longitudinal case-study for one such program: the Dutch Ecogenomics Consortium. After discussing the emerging technology 'ecogenomics', it is shown that a carefully designed CTA process, and deliberation with the public, can help to increase the societal relevance of science and technology, even when they are still 'emerging'. However, it is also demonstrated that various conditions set for these programs at their beginning, potentially hinder the full realization of these programs' societal ambitions. Several lessons learned are provided, that can benefit the future governance of innovative research programs.

Realizing Societal Ambitions

# Realizing Societal Ambitions in Innovative Research Programs

The Case of the Dutch Ecogenomics Consortium

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